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WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1915.

THE STRUGGLE IN NEW MEXICO

The Las-Cruces Citizen has the following very true observation regarding the campaign for the abolition of illiteracy which is being inaugurated in New Mexico:

"New Mexicans in looking through the United States census have no reason to blush at the state's standing along these lines, for New Mexico, although a new and a border state, is on a par with Virginia, South Carolina and others of the oldest states in the Union and our school system is as far reaching and as thorough as any. It is not because New Mexico is more literate than other states that this campaign is to be started but our state realizes, as do many other states, that the entire country has a higher percentage of illiterates than it should have and it behoves such individual state to better its own condition. Las Cruces, though above the average New Mexico city, presents a good field for work in this great campaign and our school organization is active and progressive to such an extent that Superintendent White may feel assured of its hearty co-operation."

But there should be no pride in the fact that illiteracy in New Mexico is no worse—in fact averages better—than in some of the southern states. The population of New Mexico is fully ninety-nine per cent white, as Indians are not figured in New Mexico's literacy average, while fully half of the population of those illiterate southern states is made up of negro ex-slaves and their descendants.

The Anglo-American population of New Mexico can all read and write. The illiteracy is among the native Spanish-Americans whose interests have been neglected by their Anglo-American and Spanish-American leaders most shamefully.

As to how some of the Spanish-American leaders regard the efforts being put forth to uplift the illiterate population, we may quote the following editorial from the Santa Fe New Mexican regarding the attitude of Jose Montanez, editor and publisher of "La Revista de Taos" and superintendent of the county schools of Taos county, who also is son-in-law of Major Felix Martinez, the political boss of that county:

"For instance last week's issue says that educators are trying to induce the Spanish-American countries to attend the meeting of the educational association in Albuquerque. Had they only seen the crowds have their money taken from them and then treated like dogs. This appears to be going a trifle strong. It is hardly necessary to tell the superintendent of the Taos county schools, publisher of "La Revista," that the Spanish-Americans have been and will continue to take a leading and active part in the work of the association and of the state convention, and that if there is any one bright and shining instance of impartiality, it is in the case of the hospitality extended by Albuquerque to the state educational association. It strikes me that the attitude of La Revista should be taken up vigorously at the meeting in November, and Mr. Montanez be called upon for an explanation. It seems well nigh incredulous that a school superintendent should be responsible for the publication of stuff of this kind and an explanation is immediately and pressingly due the educators of the state."

It is difficult to reconcile such admissions to Mr. Montanez with the fact that he has shown his progressive views to advertising, as he did last summer, for a disreputable teacher for his country. Also it is said that Mr. Montanez has been charging that Spanish-Americans are not accepted at either the University of New Mexico or the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. We have this latter only from hearsay but believe it true.

All of which is hard to understand in the face of the fact that Dr. Boyd made an especially hard drive last summer for Spanish-American students, that he secured the services of Hon. Felix Martinez as the orator for the last commencement, and that Mr. Martinez himself started a fund to assist in paying the way of Spanish-American students. Also it is a fact that there are more Spanish-American students in the university than have been there for many years, if ever, before.

So far as the agricultural college is concerned, Hon. Antonio Lucero was the commencement orator there yesterday.

before last, a large percentage of the students of that institution are Spanish-American, and so earnest have been Dr. Ladd's efforts to bring up the attendance of native students that he has called a conference of the leading Spanish-American educators of the state to meet at state legislature for the purpose of devising ways and means for increasing such attendance.

These are the facts. We regret Mr. Montanez's grouch. It is his grudge, but he should not be permitted to interfere with the educational work which is being done for the benefit of the natives of New Mexico. Mr. Montanez is not himself a native of New Mexico. He is a Spaniard by birth, but that fact does not explain his attitude toward the efforts being made to advance the interests of New Mexico, educationally and otherwise.

Villy may capture Akira Price. It will be easier for him to cross from there into the United States when Oregon gets after him in earnest. Besides coming himself will make the Japanese he has issued against allowing any more of his photographs across the border easier to bear.

THE RISING TIDE.

We have read with considerable disappointment a number of addresses delivered recently at great religious meetings in which the most pessimistic tone has been assumed toward the future.

We sometimes despair of the victory of what seems to us to be the right thing, because the tide rises so slowly. But we never should forget that the movement is as irresistible as the movement of the heavenly bodies. A writer in Scribner's recently put the case in this way: "We forget that mankind can no more return to its ancient immorality than culture can return to its ancient barbarism."

The war means nothing but a necessary surgical operation for the elimination of many things which seemed to have become fixtures in the political and social system of many nations. As a result of it, laissez faire and conservatism, both terms derived from the same word, "caesarism," will go. Also there will be an early disappearance of the dukes, the barons, the earls, and others bearing hereditary titles and enjoying hereditary privileges. All the military cults will be subjected in all countries to the will of the people, as is the military in the United States. Instead of the people belonging to the state, the state will belong to the people. These things had to be, and blood had to be shed to bring them about.

But the argument in this case is also addressed to those who are concerned about the sanctity of the home bearing, as we sometimes do, that it is threatened by divorce, by infidelity, by polygamy, by women in the industries, by new dances, and by the thousand and one things that come up, have their brief day, and are gone if they are wrong.

The sanctity of the home has thousand defenders today. It had one a hundred years ago. It was buttressed by the conviction that the moral law is not simply a divine command which mankind, by anxious effort, must be schooled unwillingly to obey, but is fundamental in our nature, as are the laws of health.

As people grow more sensible they see that the Ten Commandments are not laid down to curtail their personal liberty, but to increase and sustain it more firmly.

Therefore, it is not necessary that we be greatly concerned about these things, though we may work for them earnestly to the best of our abilities, for all the laws of God and man and nature are working to the same end.

Vice and license have always fought a losing battle against civilization.

They are, opposed by economic laws which have made our morality and our civilization what it is. The wave will roll on and up, as it has been doing ever since mankind began.

THE MAYOR'S TRIUMPH.

The street signs and their advertisements were placed on Central avenue yesterday. With persons who may not regard them as an outrage on good taste there is no argument. The work is done, but not all that is proposed to be done. The promoter of this enterprise has had the nerve to ask the city council for permission to use the ornamental bent posts upon which to hang his advertising, and it is said that he has the support of the mayor and four or the councilmen.

In fact, it is suggested that the major means to make this accomplishment, for the authorization of which he rose from a sick bed to call the council in special session, his chief plea for reelection. It will be the one thing he has done for the city during two joyous years of mayoralty, at \$1,200 a year, except to draw his salary.

Bears are wearing heavy furs and the Indians predict a severe winter. The girls wore heavy furs last summer, but the summer was about normal.

The name of President Wilson was frequently cheered in Mexico City, and that was before John Lind went back into that country. They are frequently cheering Lind now.

The Hall of Fame has selected John Paul Jones—probably because he is so famous that little things like the commencement orator there year

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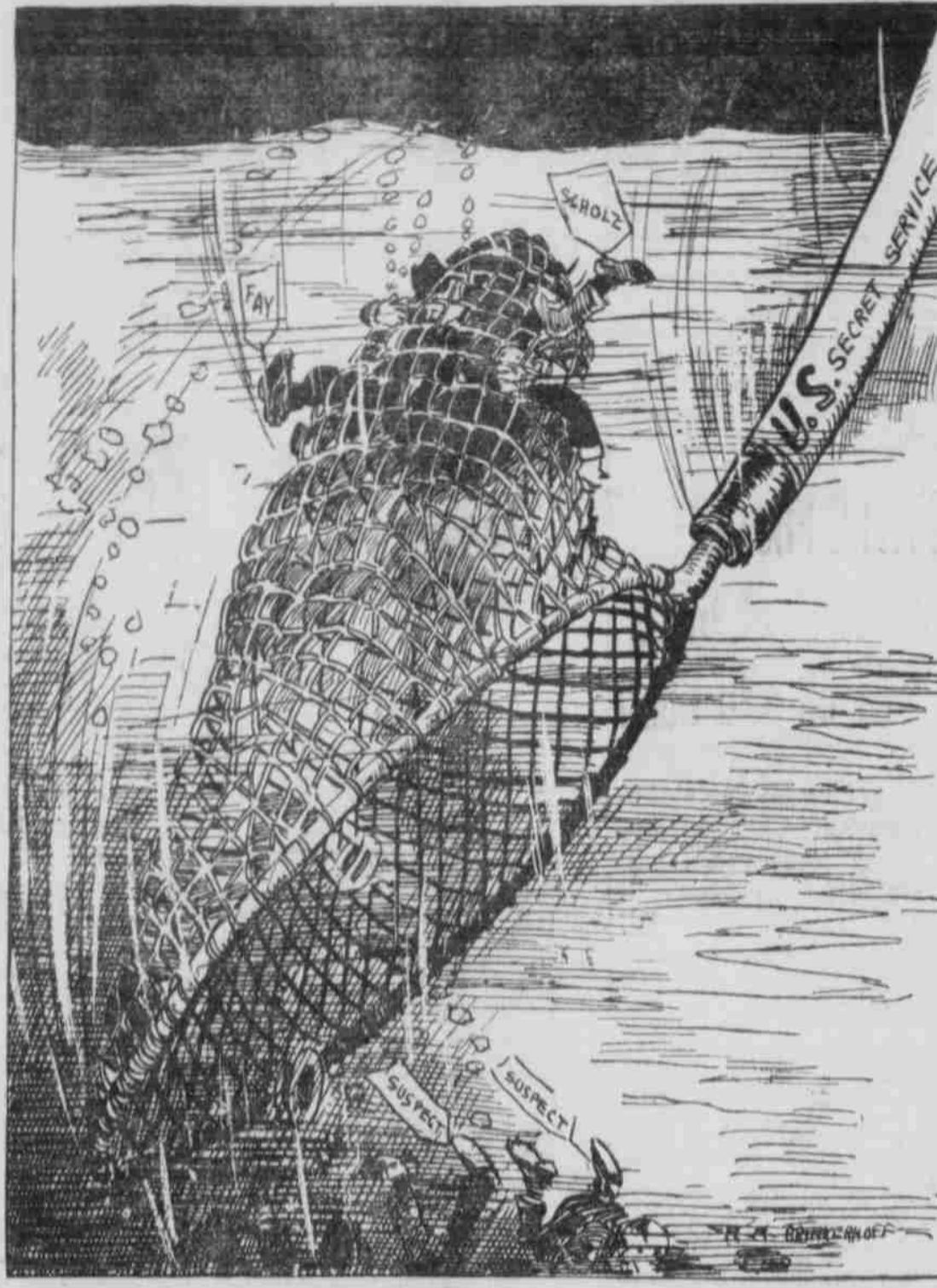
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STILL FISHING. —By Brinkerhoff.



With Scissors and Paste

WHAT A NOVELIST THINKS.

(Boston Transcript.)

To a symposium on what novelists think of the American novel, appearing recently in the New York Sun, Robert Chambers contributed the views most notable for their brevity and common sense.

"You asked me to read what Tom, Dick and Harry say about the American novel. I didn't want to, but I did, because you asked me. And now that I've read it all, I can't remember what T. D. H. & Co. have said. I merely am aware that what they say about what others do is their peculiar way of earning a living—and as good a way as any, anyway, any way you choose to say it. I don't know much about American novels, not nearly as much as those who write about them. I merely write them. Concerning creative work in general, all I know is that those people will do on the spot as long as the cash keeps coming in, and the money or novelty drives them to do. And as long as anything of the boy remains in the man he will continue to create and to find pleasure in it; but when, in any man, the boy dies, then the necessity, the desire and the ability to create die also. His day's work is done. I am quite sure your readers will not be interested in what I have said, nor am I myself any longer. But you asked me to say something, and I've told you all I know and a little more."

This is all Mr. Chambers said, but it required about one and a half full-length newspaper columns for Gene Stratton-Porter to give voice to her authoritative opinions.

PASSING OF THE COSACK.

(Seattle Post-Intelligencer.)

Another generation and the picturesque Cossack will no longer speed his spurs dash through the imagination of the most far-flying imagination. But when, reads the rider against the modern steel clad battlefield? Where the swishing of a lance from the grass while stood whirl madly on, the thousand master tricks of a daredevil folk—where shiny things at the very breath of distant, hidden cannon? The glamour becomes a frosty and his craft a curse.

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Therefore, it is not necessary that we be greatly concerned about these things, though we may work for them earnestly to the best of our abilities, for all the laws of God and man and nature are working to the same end.

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They are, opposed by economic laws which have made our morality and our civilization what it is. The wave will roll on and up, as it has been doing ever since mankind began.

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